

John Odehmat

Santa Fe Irrigation District

March 31, 2008

Chairman Richard Wright
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project - #R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA 0109223 - April
Hearing Agenda Item #7

Dear Chairman Wright:

I'm writing today on behalf of Poseidon Resources' Carlsbad Desalination Project and asking you to approve their Flow, Entrainment, and Impingement Minimization Plan at the public hearing on April 9, 2008.

I represent the Santa Fe Irrigation District (SFID), which provides water service to the City of Solana Beach and the communities of Rancho Santa Fe and Fairbanks Ranch. Our mission is to provide our customers with a reliable, high-quality water supply at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on taking an innovative approach to managing operations and meeting our customer's needs.

Our total service area covers 16 square miles and includes about 22,000 customers, primarily residential. Currently, about 30% of our potable supply comes from Lake Hodges and 70% is imported water purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority.

With the prolonged state-wide drought and other restrictions, our imported water supplies have become vulnerable and could be subject to drastic cutbacks. To address potential water supply shortages our board has been proactive in pursuing conservation and reclamation. It is not enough to ensure a reliable and affordable water supply to meet our ratepayers' needs, which is why our board has enthusiastically pursued desalination as an appropriate local water source.

In September 2007, SFID approved a Water Purchase Agreement with Poseidon Resources Corporation. Under the agreement, Poseidon will provide the District with 2,000 acre-feet per year of water from its Carlsbad desalination plant. This represents about 14% of our total annual need of 14,000 acre-feet per year.

We are confident that the Carlsbad Desalination Project meets or exceeds all environmental regulations and will contribute to the long-term health of the lagoon and marine habitat through its careful stewardship and a broad array of design, technology and mitigation measures.

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We believe that this agreement provides our region with a reliable, affordable and environmentally benign water source to augment our imported supplies. On behalf of my Board of Directors and our thousands of customers, we urge the Water Quality Control Board approve the Flow, Entrainment, and Impingement Minimization Plan.

Respectfully,



Robert M. "Bud" Irvin
President

CC:

David King, Vice Chairman
Susan Ritschel, Board Member
Eric Anderson, Board Member
Wayne Rayfield, Board Member
Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider, Board Member
Kris Weber, Board Member
John Robertus, Executive Director
Eric Becker
Michael McCann
John Odermatt